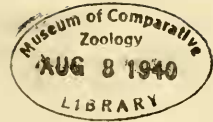


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A NEW SPECIES OF LEGLESS LIZARD FROM SAN GERONIMO ISLAND, LOWER CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

BY

CHARLES E. SHAW

San Diego Society of Natural History

Having occasion to examine a number of California Legless Lizards (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) in the collection of L. M. Klauber, I came upon two specimens from San Geronimo Island, off the Pacific coast of Lower California, Mexico, which appeared to represent a new species. Their novelty has been confirmed by comparisons with a large series of *A. p. pulchra* from California and Lower California, including Todos Santos and Los Coronados Islands, which also lie off the Pacific coast of Lower California. I therefore describe this new form as

***Anniella geronimensis* new species**

SAN GERONIMO ISLAND LEGLESS LIZARD

Type Specimen.—No. 7543 in the collection of L. M. Klauber. Adult female collected on San Geronimo Island, Lower California, Mexico, March 28, 1932, by Margaret Bancroft. A single paratype, LMK 7542, with the same data as the type specimen, is also available.

Diagnosis.—This species closely resembles *A. p. pulchra*, but differs from that subspecies in having the head more depressed, broader, and sharply pointed in profile. The fourth instead of the second supralabial is the largest. The tail is shorter and somewhat heavier than in *p. pulchra*. The ratio of tail to total length ranges from .297 to .315 and averages .306, while the ratio of tail length to total length in *p. pulchra* varies from .343 to .414 and averages .382 in 24 adult specimens. In markings, *geronimensis* differs from *p. pulchra* in having as many as 25 prominent dark stripes at the neck instead of the usual three of

the latter form. The scales of the ventrum are speckled or streaked with brown and have a dark brown anterior edge.

Description of the Type.—Body sub-cylindrical; tail short (.315 of the total length) and sub-cylindrical. Head depressed, short and little distinct from the neck; sharply pointed in profile and shovel-shaped in outline from above. When the mouth is closed the supralabials overhang and partially conceal the infra-labials. The snout projects beyond the lower jaw. There is no ear opening.

The scalation of the head is as follows: a large, strongly recurved rostral, sharply pointed in profile, and flat below. A pair of internasals, followed by the fronto-nasal, which is wider than long and bordered on each side by a single large preocular. Posterior to the fronto-nasal is the fronto-parietal, which is smaller than the preceding plate, wider than long, and notched posteriorly to receive a small interparietal which is bordered on each side by a small parietal. Posterior to the interparietal are two small interoccipitals separating two narrow but high occipitals on the left side from a single one on the right. Posterior to the interoccipitals are the body scales, which are sharply reduced in size. There are four supraoculars on the right side and four on the left, two long and narrow superciliaries, and a single small postocular. The nasal is short, but high, and the nostril is a little forward of the center. Above and behind the nasal is the internasal. Below the nasal is the first supralabial, which also extends a short distance beneath the rostral. There are seven supralabials on the right side and six on the left. The fourth supralabial is the largest, and, together with the third supralabial, is in contact with the eye. There is a single, inferior, eyelid covered by three scales.

The symphyseal is large and sub-triangular. There are six infralabials on the right side and seven on the left, smaller than the supralabials. There are several series of enlarged sublabials. The preanal scales are equal in size to those preceding them. There are 24 longitudinal series of scales at mid-body and 14 around the middle of the tail.

Coloration and Markings.—The top and sides of the head are black with small spots of the gray ground color showing. The infralabials and sublabials are dark brown. The body and tail are longitudinally striped with black or dark gray on a gray ground color. Under magnification, the scales of the body and tail have a silvery gray ground color mottled with black or dark brown. The upper and lower edges of each scale are dark brown or black. Through the center of each scale run several fine silver striations which mark the boundaries of the longitudinal stripes. The scales of the ventrum are stippled or streaked with brown and edged anteriorly with dark brown on a light-gray ground color.

There is a reduction in the number of dorsal and lateral longitudinal stripes from 25 at the neck to 19 at mid-body and 18 a short distance anterior to the anus. At the anus two lateral stripes on each side are dropped. The dorsal, lateral, and ventral stripes on the tail number 14 and are slightly wider than those of the body, due to the increase in the size of the tail scales.

Measurements of the Type.—Total length, 190 mm.; tail length, 60 mm.;

ratio of tail length to total length, .315.

The paratype shows no appreciable variation in scalation and markings from the type specimen.

I am indebted to Mr. L. M. Klauber and Mr. C. B. Perkins for advice and criticism concerning this paper, and to Mr. Alvin Paley who made the drawings.

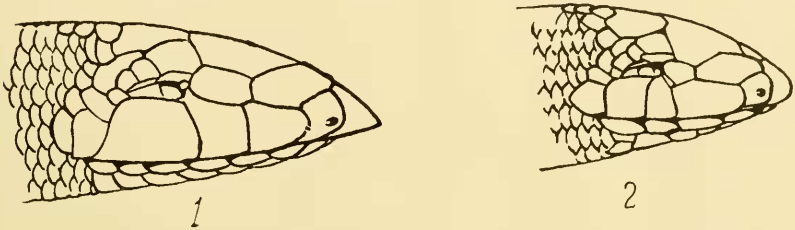


Fig. 1—*Anniella geronimensis* (lateral view of head). Type specimen.

Fig. 2—*Anniella pulchra pulchra* (lateral view of head). From near Descanso, San Diego County, California.

